

See new five-power parley on Somalia

AMMAN, Jan. 24 (AP). — Representatives of five states will meet in London next Tuesday for further consultations on the situation in the Horn of Africa, informed sources said today. The five countries are Britain, France, West Germany, Italy and the United States. The meeting follows a similar one on Saturday by the five in Washington and will convene the Horn of Africa situation "disturbing." An authoritative source meanwhile said that before the date of meeting, the five powers might give an answer to President Mohammad Siad Barre's request, made Jan. 16, for war material.

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Ethiopia denies Somali reports

LONDON, Jan. 24 (R). — Ethiopia today denied Somali reports that Somali forces were fighting in the streets of the strategic walled city of Harar. A spokesman for the Ethiopian Embassy here told Reuters that claims by Mogadishu Radio that Somalis had penetrated Harar and taken the town of Babil were "pure fabrication." Addis Ababa radio claimed today that the people of Harar, the mountain headquarters of government troops in the Ogaden, had asked to take over defence duties in the province. The radio said the people of Harar had staged a mass rally at which they asked to take over "revolutionary defence duties enabling the men in uniform to mount a full scale counter attack" against Somali forces.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردن تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية العربية «الرأي»

King Hussein: Lack of moral courage among Israeli leaders is one obstacle to peace

AMMAN, Jan. 24 (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein last night said the suspension of the Egyptian-Israeli talks to the "lack of moral courage" on the part of Israeli leaders.

In an interview with BBC television screened here Monday the King said this was responsible for Israel's failure to make a decision to restore the Arab lands occupied in 1967 to their rightful owners so as to make a peace agreement possible.

King Hussein went on to say that the Arabs lost all hope of peace with Israel and that they might resort to war as alternative in the long run.

The King expressed his hope in avoiding a new war in the region and said that he was ready to go to the end of the world if it would mean the return of the lands that were under his authority.

He expressed his readiness to place those lands under international auspices until the citizens living in the area could decide in a future by themselves and determine what shape that should take.

President Sadat's initiative, which Jordan respected, the Arab used to believe that there was a chance of achieving a lasting and honorable peace, King Hussein went on to say.

President Sadat could not have offered any more for the peace than he has already done. If he fails, the responsibility will be with the Israelis, the King added.

There is no possibility for any progress unless there is a change in the Israeli's position, but that is unlikely, King Hussein concluded.

King Hussein sends message to Khaled

AMMAN, Jan. 24 (R). — Crown Prince Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia today sent a message from His Majesty King Hussein addressed to King Khaled, Riyadh, reported.

Qatari minister leaves Amman

AMMAN, Jan. 24 (JNA). — The Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Suheim Ibn Hamad Al Thani left here today after a one-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and other officials.

The present Arab situation and bilateral relations were discussed, the Jordan News Agency said.



His Majesty King Hussein chats with Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Suheim Ibn Hamad Al Thani at the Royal Hashemite Court Tuesday. (JNA photo)

Fighting flares in South Lebanon; rightists strengthen position

BEIRUT, Lebanon, Jan. 24 (AP). — Rightwing Christian forces claimed today they had overrun the village of Blat, a Palestinian guerrilla stronghold 14 kms. north of the Israeli border in south Lebanon.

Local administration officials in the south said fleeing villagers reported Blat changed hands almost hourly in repeated attacks and counter-attacks.

"We simply don't know who holds the village now," said one official in the port city of Sidon, 40 kms. south of Beirut.

"Refugees told us the fighting involved some savage hand-to-hand combat."

Mr. Yasser Arafat's head-

quarters in Beirut had no immediate comment, but a spokesman said guerrillas and Israeli-backed rightists exchanged mortar and artillery fire in the south for the third night running.

The new flare-up coincided with heightened demands by Lebanon's Christian warlords that Palestinian armed presence should be ended in Lebanon as a precondition for a reconciliation with the nation's Moslem half of the population.

The rightist Voice of Lebanon radio station claimed eight guerrillas were killed in a Christian attack mounted shortly after midnight on the guerrilla-held village of Blat.

The broadcast said the attackers sneaked out of the Christian stronghold of Marjeyoun "stormed Blat in a successful surprise" attack and finished a mop-up operation by dawn.

Blat is about 1.5 kms. north of Marjeyoun. It has a predominantly Moslem Shi'ite population estimated at about 2,000.

Mortar and artillery exchanges started in the south early Sunday, shattering a lull that followed Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's dramatic trip to Jerusalem in November last year.

The fighting escalated Monday, sending hundreds of villagers fleeing from the guerrilla stronghold of Khiam and the adjacent Christian stronghold of Qle'a, both about three kms. from the Israeli border.

The governor's office in Sidon, provincial capital of the south, reported four villagers were killed in Monday's exchanges between Khiam and Qle'a.

If the Christian claim of cap-

turing Blat is true, rightist forces would be in an improved strategic position to endanger communication routes of guerrillas in the southeastern border region of Arqoub.

Despite Israel's support of a Christian drive to push guerrillas northward, Mr. Arafat's fighters are still the dominant force in most of the southern regions bordering Israel, and Syrian government newspapers are openly stating that the guerrillas will remain in the South.

This may have contributed to fresh rightist calls for a total removal of the Palestinian guerrillas from the whole of Lebanon.

"Without this there can't be any Christian-Moslem national reconciliation," said former President Camille Chamoun, who heads the overall political leadership of the Christian militia that fought in the civil war.

"Unless Moslem leaders come to unanimous accord with us that the Palestinian armed presence should be totally removed, part of Lebanon will be lost," Chamoun said in a statement published today.

This remark underscored mounting Christian fears that a Palestinian homeland may be carved out in south Lebanon as part of an overall Middle East settlement between the Arab states and Israel.

Chamoun's statement, however, prompted hostile reaction from conservative, leftist and pro-Syrian Moslem leaders alike, who argued that the guerrillas' "temporary" presence in the south should not be linked with the questions of intra-Lebanese national reconciliation.

He is to testify further to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee tomorrow.

Meanwhile, at the Jerusalem Hilton Hotel, scene of the disrupted foreign ministers' talks, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton cooled his heels waiting for signs of a return to the negotiating table.

During the day he met the Director General of Israel's Foreign Ministry, Ephraim Evron. Last night he saw Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

Nuclear powered Soviet satellite disintegrates

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24 (AP). — A Soviet satellite powered by a nuclear reactor disintegrated in the earth's atmosphere early this morning over Canada, President Carter's national security adviser said.

A Canadian government spokesman in Ottawa said, "We have no reason at this time to be apprehensive about any danger at all."

Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, Mr. Carter's national security aide, told reporters, "The chances are very little that any contamination resulted."

He said the Soviet Cosmos satellite containing highly radioactive enriched uranium-235 entered the atmosphere at 6:53 a.m. EST (11:53 GMT) "and it proceeded to disintegrate and burn up" over Queen Charlotte Island on Canada's west coast. He said he presumed the satellite was a Soviet military satellite.

He said that based on scientific experience, it was "very highly probable" it would burn up.

However, the national security aide said several hours would be required before the atmosphere there could be sampled.

He said that had the satellite reached a densely populated area there would have been "some concerns over hazards to health."

The United States in 1965 launched a satellite powered by a nuclear reactor. The vehicle, known as "Snapshot," and powered by uranium 235, oper-

ated for 43 days but then failed. It is still in orbit.

Other U.S. satellites have carried radioactive isotopes to power electrical generators. These isotopes are usually a form of U-238, a less dangerous form of radioactive material.

Dr. Brzezinski's announcement climaxed about two weeks of intensive consultations between U.S. and Soviet officials as it became apparent that the Russian satellite was going to drop out of orbit.

Dr. Brzezinski said the disintegration of the Soviet satellite was completed over Great Slave Lake in Canada's north-west territories, a sparsely populated area.

Dr. Brzezinski said U.S. planes were dispatched to the area to sample the atmosphere and look for any possible contamination.

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The satellite, which had been in orbit since Sept. 18, 1977, contained about 100 pounds of

the enriched uranium, Dr. Brzezinski said.

He said that in late December, the United States, which routinely tracks Soviet satellites, found some indications that the Cosmos was encountering difficulties and that it "would re-enter the atmosphere with some difficulty."

He said the reactor aboard the craft was about one yard in diameter.

It had originally been in orbit 150 miles above the earth but in the last few days dropped down to about a 100-mile orbit.

He said that if any radioactivity reached the earth's surface it would be similar in amount to that caused by a nuclear explosion in the high atmosphere which could then drift around the globe for several years.

Ben Huberman, a U.S. National Security Council staff member who coordinated an inter-agency group keeping track of the situation, said that such nuclear powered satellites have been launched at least 10 times by the Soviet Union but that this is the first one that posed such a threat.

Under normal conditions, such satellites are placed into a high orbit in outer space when their novel functions are completed. The high orbits keep them circling the earth for 500 to 1,000 years while the nuclear fuel loses its potency.

Vance calls for period of quiet in Mideast peace negotiations

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24 (R). — U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance today called for a period of quiet in the Middle East peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt. Reporting to Congress on his recent trip to the area, during which Egypt recalled its delegation from talks in Jerusalem over a declaration of principles to govern a comprehensive settlement, Mr. Vance said:

"There are still difficult issues which remain to be resolved which relate to the declaration of principles."

"It is our hope that the talks could be resumed in the not too distant future and I think that one of the most important things that can be done now is to have a period of quiet in which they could get down to discussions in closed sessions."

Mr. Vance's remarks before the House of Representatives International Relations Committee followed a White House statement last night after he briefed President Carter on his trip that ended on Sunday.

The statement urged Egypt and Israel to resume quickly the parallel negotiations between their defense ministers in Cairo dealing with Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai desert.

"The president and the secretary expressed the hope that the public exchanges of recent days are now behind us and that every effort will be made to recapture the spirit that followed recent meetings between Prime Minister (Menachem) Begin and President (Anwar) Sadat and to turn full attention through quiet diplomacy to the substance of the negotiations," the White House statement said.

Mr. Vance told reporters yesterday after testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Syria's determination to ensure a strategic balance between us and the Zionist enemy which will enable us to pursue the struggle for the fulfillment of our objectives."

His statement, broadcast over Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam told students at Damascus University last night that his country was making "new arrangements to ensure a strategic balance between us and the Zionist enemy which will enable us to pursue the struggle for the fulfillment of our objectives."

An official statement on Syria's determination to ensure a strategic balance between us and the Zionist enemy coincided with fresh efforts to draw Iraq into an anti-Egyptian alliance formed at last month's Arab summit in Tripoli.

The Arab sources said secret agreements reached at the Tripoli summit included the Syrians financing Syrian arms purchases from the Soviet Union worth up to \$1 billion.

Well-informed sources in Damascus said today Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein was likely to lead the Baghdad delegation to an anti-Egyptian summit expected to open in Al-

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Jordanian financial delegation visits Riyadh

AMMAN, Jan. 24 (R). — Jordan's Minister of Finance Dr. Mohammad Dabbas arrived in Riyadh today on a visit to Saudi Arabia lasting several days, Riyadh radio reported.

Dr. Dabbas and his delegation which includes Jordan's Central Bank Governor, Dr. Mohammad Said Nabulsi and other senior officials are expected to hold financial and economic talks with Saudi Arabia's Minister of Finance and Economy, Sheikh Mohammad Abul Khalil, the radio added.

The Jordanian minister was quoted as saying on arrival that his talks would cover questions of common interest, bilateral relations and cooperation in the economic field.

National News Roundup

Abu Odeh meets delegation from Argentine

AMMAN, Jan. 24 (JNA). — The Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh received in his office today the members of the Arab-Argentinian Cultural Institute delegation, who are currently visiting Jordan. The two sides exchanged views on the strengthening of bilateral cooperation in the fields of culture, history, and art. The delegation arrived here two days ago on a several-days visit to Jordan in the course of his tour of a number of Arab states including Syria and Saudi Arabia, at the invitation of the Arab League.

Tourism chief meets Buenos Aires professors

AMMAN, Jan. 24 (JNA). — The Director General of Tourism Michael Hamarneh discussed during a meeting in his office today with a number of Buenos Aires University professors means of strengthening bilateral tourist relations. They also discussed the possibility of sending a number of Jordanians on fellowships to study tourist sciences at a number of Argentinian universities.

Talhouni meets Pakistani Ambassador

AMMAN, Jan. 20 (JNA). — Speaker of the Upper House Bahjat Talhouni today received the Pakistani ambassador in Amman.

Industry and Commerce Minister talks cooperation with Italian delegation

AMMAN, Jan. 24 (JNA). — Minister of Industry and Commerce Dr. Najmeddine Dajani today discussed with an Italian economic delegation headed by the Italian ambassador here, means of promoting economic cooperation, particularly financing Jordanian development projects or participation in joint ventures between Jordan and the group of Italian industries represented by the delegation. The talks are complementary to those carried out by the Italian team with Jordanian officials some two months ago.

Transport Ministry agrees with Greece

AMMAN, Jan. 24 (JNA). — The Ministry of Transport announced today its approval of a request submitted by the Greek government for the signing of a land transport agreement between the two countries.

Electricity expansion in Irbid area

IRBID, Jan. 24 (JNA). — The electricity company for the Irbid governorate has finalised a new plan under which 118 villages will be provided with electricity. This project will cost JD 5 million.

Amman Stock Exchange Report

NAME OF CO.	Number of shares issued	Volume traded in JD.	Opening price	Highest selling price	Lowest selling price	Closing price	Last buying bid	Last selling bid
AMAN AL-NAFEEH FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT	JD 1,000	405	1.000	1.100	1.100	1.100	—	—
JORDAN TANNING CO.	JD 5,000	1,313	7.100	7.100	7.100	7.100	—	—
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL CO.	JD 5,000	197	11.000	11.800	11.600	11.600	—	—
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES CO.	JD 1,000	340	9.900	9.850	9.850	9.850	9.800	—
JORDAN CONCRETE Factories	JD 10,000	1,484	15.000	15.150	15.150	15.150	15.150	—
JORDAN CERAMICS CO.	JD 1,000	407	1.050	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100	—
PAPER AND CARDBOARD Factories	JD 1,000	44	1.100	1.050	1.050	1.050	—	—
JORDAN PETROLEUM CO.	JD 5,000	5,770	6.800	6.850	6.800	6.800	—	—

75 per cent of the shares paid.

Total volume traded, Tuesday, Jan. 24: JD 8,900.

Champion snake charmer crowned

charmer

crowned

HYDERABAD, Pakistan, (R). — To the wailing of flutes and chanting of spells, two old men battled for four days in a crowded stadium here for the right to be crowned Pakistan's champion snake charmer.

The title and a prize of 50,000 rupees (22,600) put up by a snake research institute eventually went to Photo Khan, one of the legendary hermits of the forests and deserts known as Jokies.

The Nawab of Tajpur ceded the challenge when Photo Khan, who says he is over 100 years old, draped a highly poisonous snake around his neck.

The Nawab squirmed with humiliation when he tried to show that his cobra was poisonous by making it bite a number of rabbits.

When none of the rabbits died Photo Khan stepped in to claim he had put a spell on the cobra and demand that the trick be repeated without his spell. The next rabbit to be bitten died within seconds.

Econoscope

By Jawad Ahmad

Central Bank aims to make ends meet

Three weeks ago the Amman Financial Market began operations. The volume of traded securities and shares is indeed very small. Actually, securities have not been subjected to any wheeling-dealing, and the market's activity has been strictly confined to shares. To be even more specific, shares of only ten firms have enjoyed any business in the market so far. On average the volume of sales barely exceeds JD. 4,000 per day.

Although the market is too young to be evaluated, its momentum is not heart-warming. In acknowledgement of this fact, the Central Bank found itself in a position where it had to give the market a fillip. The boost, as the bank envisages it, lies in the invitation of prospective participants from neighbouring Arab countries to enter the market.

The way the bank sees this done is by allowing non-resident Arabs to buy, sell and own Jordanian equity and debt instruments without prior permission. Moreover, they are also entitled to the same rights and privileges as Jordanian buyers and sellers.

Not only that. The bank has coupled the above cited regulations with further foreign exchange control removals. Jordanian residents are allowed to maintain foreign exchange deposits with local commercial banks.

The word "resident" refers to Jordanians living in Jordan or working abroad. This smart definition helps enhance foreign exchange receipts on two accounts:

1. Jordanians working abroad will have now a new alternate facility to repatriate additional savings back home. The accounts to be nourished by expatriates are opened either in their names or in the name of some of

their relatives living in Jordan.

2. Jordanians who keep foreign exchange deposits abroad may now be tempted to repatriate some of them to Jordan.

Now, the question which poses itself is the following: Does this foreign exchange liberalisation help the Amman Financial Market? Obviously it may by channelling some of these foreign exchange investments into the market. How to insure that link is not clear though in the regulations. This may come at a later stage.

The second question which needs to be answered is: What effects will this new exchange liberalisation have on the balance of payments and the money supply? As for the balance of payments, the marginal effect could range from zero to any unspecified positive value. If the deposits are nourished by assets sent in the form of remittances the effect would be zero. However, if they are sent in addition to remittances the effect would be positive.

As for their effect on the money supply it depends on the treatment accorded to these deposits. If banks are allowed to loan some of them, then they will be a new source of credit expansion. If they are not, the effect on the money supply will depend on how many of them will be converted into Jordan dinars.

At a time when the financial market needs help, the credit market is tight, the earnings of Jordanians abroad need tapping and industrial investments need financing. At this time these new measures by the Central Bank deserve commendation. Let us hope that they fulfill their multi-purposed objective.

Chinese base strategy on premise that Soviet greed for power makes world war inevitable

PEKING (AFP). — For the Chinese the visit of French Prime Minister Raymond Barre has been above all a new opportunity to denounce the threat of "Soviet imperialism" to the world.

When Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping, the sprightly 70-year-old who has become China's number two man, met Mr. Barre for two hours of talks on international affairs, he explained to his French visitor the world situation as seen from Peking and tried to convince him of the folly of the West's policy of detente with the Soviet Union.

A source present at the meeting said Teng Hsiao-ping revealed a global strategy based on the premise that "Soviet greed for power makes a new world war inevitable." China's whole strategy hinges on this.

The Chinese feel that the United States, the other superpower capable of counteracting "sinister Soviet plans", has abdicated its responsibility by retreating into a defensive position and encouraging the West in a vain policy of appeasement.

China therefore proposes a different strategy which may not avoid war but could delay it and ensure victory. Teng Hsiao-ping explained this strategy to Mr. Barre as follows:

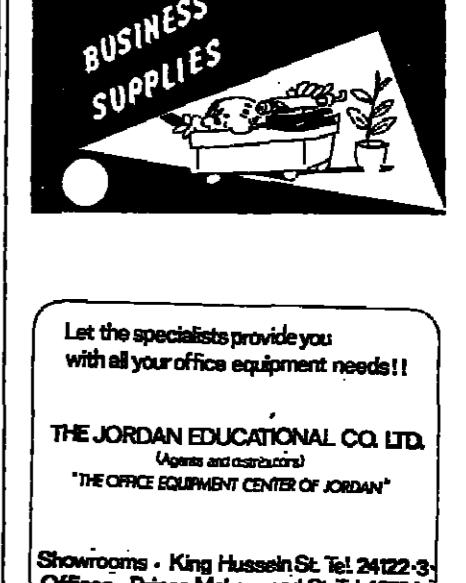
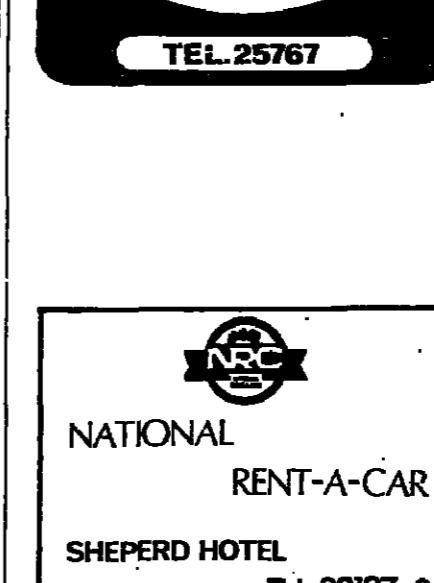
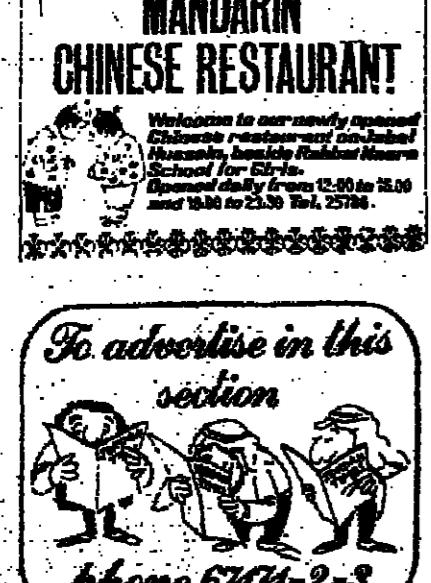
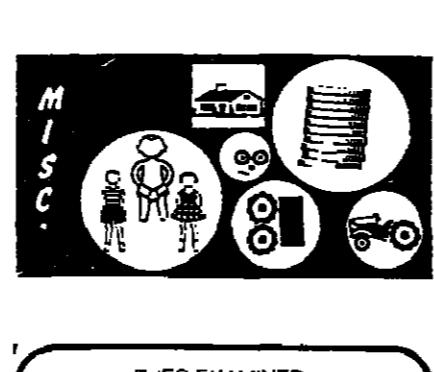
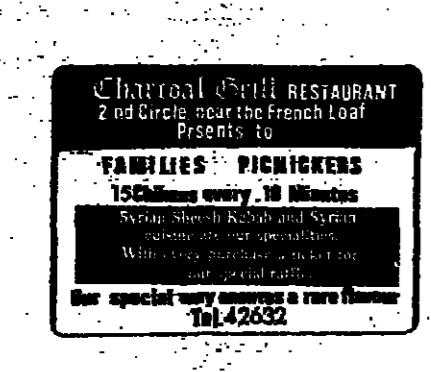
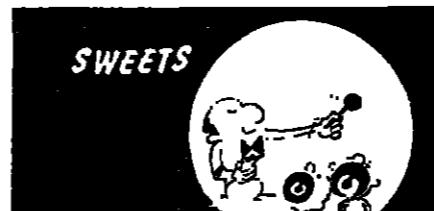
1) Everyone must prepare for war. These preparations may make the Soviet Union think twice. This suggestion followed Vice-Premier Teng's recent criticism to visiting United States congressmen of the U.S. military budget seen as too low compared to the Soviet Union's.

2) All Soviet plots around the world must be foiled to "destabilise its social-imperialist policy." Here Teng Hsiao-ping congratulated France for intervening in Zaire and disrupting Soviet projects in Africa.

3) The West must not be tempted by appeasement policies, such as disarmament talks or developing trade links with the Soviet Union. Such policies are a swindle as the United States was resold a few years ago when wheat it sold the Russians the West grants the Soviet Union merely aids its arms race.

Teng Hsiao-ping gave his listeners the impression that China's current strategy was designed as a stop-gap while it carried out its goal of modernisations in industry, agriculture, science and defence. The mainstay of the new leader's policy. But when China is as strong as the Soviet Union it may be a different story.

AMMAN MARKETPLACE



Poor countries could save \$600m. if debt standards were revised, says UNCTAD's Corea

GENEVA, Jan. 24 (R). — The world's poorest countries could save a total of over \$600 million a year in loan repayments if their foreign debts were revised to current standards, a senior United Nations official said here yesterday.

Mr. Ganani Corea, Sri Lanka's Secretary-General of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), said non oil-producing developing countries spent on average a quarter of export earnings to pay back earlier loans from the richer states.

He said the loan terms, fixed some 10 to 15 years ago, were "significantly harder" than those now considered.

This conference is intended

countries. appropriate for the poorer He told an UNCTAD-sponsored meeting of government officials that if the rich countries wrote off the outstanding debts of the world's 29 poorest countries and increased the amount of grants in their aid to the 16 most needy states it would save \$600 million in debt repayments.

to make some headway in preparing for a major UNCTAD meeting in March.

At present the total debts of the developing countries to commercial banks and governments are between \$225 billion and \$250 billion. There is great disagreement, however, between rich and poor countries as to how the debt issue should be resolved.

Iran drops plans for nuclear power plants near quake zone

TEHRAN, Jan. 24 (R). — Plans for building nuclear power plants in Bandar Abbas on the Gulf have been dropped in favour of gas power stations because of seismic conditions, the newspaper Ayandegan reported.

Quoting the governor of Hormozgan Province, it said the area was quake-prone, and nuclear stations planned for Bandar Abbas would be sited elsewhere in the country.

Israel to renew radio, T.V. equipment with credits from Germany

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 24 (R). — The state-owned Israeli Broadcasting Authority (IBA) is to renew its equipment with credits from West Germany, the IBA director said here today.

Mr. Yitzhak Livni told the governing board of the Israeli radio and television services that Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich had agreed in principle to use of a credit of between five and six million dollars offered during his recent visit to Germany.

Mr. Livni said radio and television engineers would shortly be going to Germany to inspect equipment destined to replace that installed in the 1960's and now outdated and approaching the end of its useful life.

It's a tough life on a North Sea oil rig

This time of year there are few more inhospitable spots in the world than the North Sea with its howling, often icy gales and mountainous waves. That is why working on an oilrig in this area is one of the toughest jobs in the world today. Guy Arnold recently visited one of the rigs and saw the conditions under which 9,000 men are working today.

By Guy Arnold
ABERDEEN, Scotland -- In all the debates about Britain's oil wealth and the employment boosts that Scotland in general and Aberdeen as oil capital in particular are enjoying, it is all too easy to forget the men actually working in the North Sea in weather conditions that for most of the time are grim by any standards.

About 9,000 men are working offshore, supported by a workforce of 90,000 onshore in oil related activities, half of these in Scotland. In 1975 it was estimated that an average North Sea platform required a crew of approximately 140. Or rather two crews of 70 men each, half onshore and half on the rig at any time. These required a further immediate back-up of another 120 men onshore and of such a total -- 250 men -- perhaps 60 would be foreign nationals.

But the needs have changed with experience on the job and now, for example, the Forties platforms in full production require about 72 men to run them as well as "short-term stayers" who come aboard to carry out specific maintenance and other jobs and then leave. Thus, up to 96 beds a platform are in constant use.

The result is that numbers required have been upgraded: The basic crew may now come to 125 -- apart from short term maintenance men -- while a second crew of 125 will be on leave ashore.

The normal practice is for the men to work a two week shift on and then have two weeks leave. In addition to the normal crews extra men are on stand-by at a ratio of point four of a man to each post to cover sickness, leave and training.

A great deal has been made of the high pay received by the men on the platforms, though some of this is hearsay and in any case exact figures are hard to come by since men work to contracts for

board; there are fire risks and the work generally is dirty and exhausting.

On top of this comes the weather: Gale force winds, 60 foot waves, icing on the catwalks and platforms.

It has been found that the men best suited to work on the rigs are aged between 20 and 40. If they are younger or older they tend to stand one shift only under the hard conditions and then quit. Two weeks on means two weeks at twelve hours a day with the prospect of being called out in an emergency as well.

The work is rough and there is no security; in the early days there was no compensation for injury and in one case, for example, a man lost his bonus for claiming compensation for losing a finger.

Many men have tried work

on the rigs and then despite the high pay given up after one stint. No alcohol or women are allowed. There is a good deal of trouble especially among the skilled men because of penalising taxation; what they would like are tax free bonuses.

As yet trade unions have made little headway in the North Sea. They have failed to unionise the rigs; partly this is because the working populations are constantly changing and partly because of the nature of the work (hard, dangerous and dirty) which attracts tough individuals who take on jobs on a casual basis and are uninterested -- to put it mildly -- at being unionised anyway.

B.P. and Shell tolerate union membership; most of the other companies are actively hostile to it.

In September of 1977 200 men were airlifted off Dullin

A platform after they had do-

wnd tools in a dispute when the management, McDermott's Oceans Drilling Contractors, refused to recognise a workers' committee.

Yet the attitude of some of the men is hardly in sympathy with such committees or organisation. As one man said: "After one trip everyone knows what the conditions are. If they don't like it they don't have to stay." That, clearly, is the attitude of the management as well.

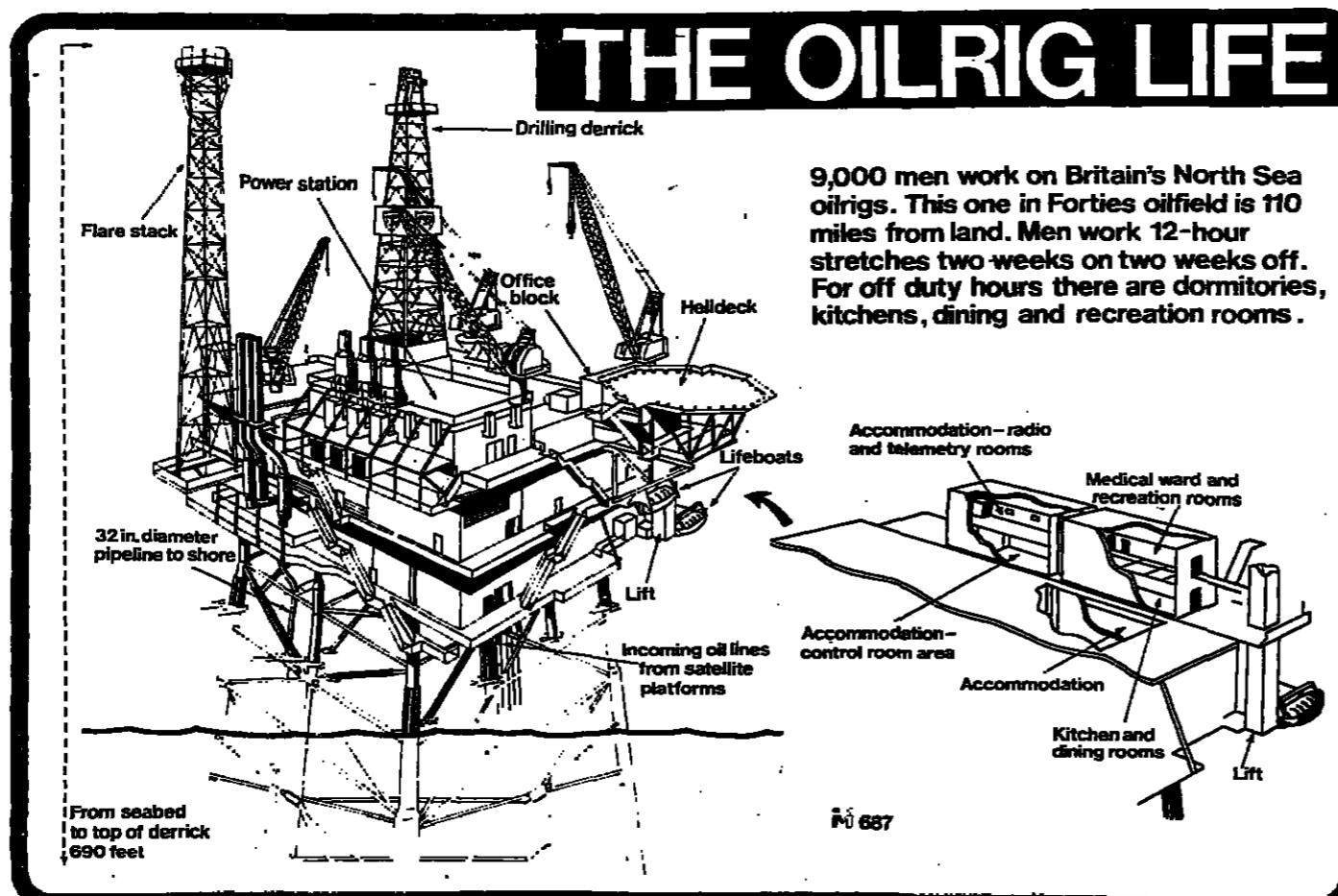
No doubt in time the rigs and platforms in the North Sea will be unionised and conditions will become better.

Meanwhile, neither government nor companies will allow anything to stop the oil coming ashore for already its impact upon the economy has

become so crucial that delays are considered to be unthinkable.

At the same time tough individuals do incredibly hard work and surely earn every penny they get: Two weeks at twelve hours a day on a North Sea platform in winter conditions is in no sense a soft job.

Perhaps the best commentary on conditions in the North Sea is the fact that a team of doctors in Scotland is now studying oil related injuries that they have to cope with when casualties from the rigs are flown off by helicopter and brought into Aberdeen's hospitals.



Pay strike brings Bombay to standstill

NEW DELHI, Jan. 24 (R). — Bombay, India's second largest city, was at a virtual standstill today when seven million workers in the western state of Maharashtra went on a 24-hour strike.

The strike was called by national trade unions in support of a 42-day strike by state and local government employees demanding more pay.

Journalists and other newspaper workers across the country also called a 24-hour strike in protest at the alleged refusal by proprietors to recognise wage boards set up to fix new salaries for workers in the industry.

The national radio reported life in Bombay had been badly disrupted.

Banks, shops, and restaurants closed and buses and taxis disappeared from the streets. Drivers of 8,000 taxis in Bombay have full support to the strike.

Central government offices, such as the Reserve Bank, as well as private firms, reported for duty. Some 750,000 lower-ranking employees of the state government, municipal councils, including school teachers, have been on strike since Dec. 14.

City busmen demonstrated noisily near their main depots just after midnight but workers in essential services such as power, hospitals and fire brigades, were excluded from the strike.

The country's national news agency, Samachar, shut down for 24 hours from 2:30 GMT.

The government workers' main demand is for payment of an indexed living cost wage supplement of about 11 per cent.

Weekend intervention by two central government ministers failed to reach a settlement.

The major strike today, backed by all except one of the country's major trade unions, was called to demonstrate solidarity with government workers.

Tunisia's General Worker's Union decides to call national strike

TUNIS, Jan. 24 (R). — Tunisia's government-controlled General Workers Union (UGTT) yesterday decided to call a national strike following what it described as provocation, violence and organised terrorism against trade unionism.

The strike would be the first national stoppage in Tunisia since independence from France in 1956. It comes amid growing differences between the

Greece to give Cyprus \$30 m.

ATHENS, Greece Jan. 24 (Agencies). — Greece has said a further \$30 million in economic aid for Cyprus in 1978, bringing the total since the 1974 Turkish invasion of the island republic to \$120 million, the government announced today.

The announcement was made after a meeting between the Cypriot finance minister and Greek Premier Constantine Caramanlis.

Damascus plans to boost water supply as Figeah proves to be insufficient

Damascus is thought to be the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world -- thanks to the water from one stream. Now, a \$137 million scheme plans to increase the water supply in line with the demands of a growing city.

DAMASCUS (WFS). — For more than 4,000 years, this city has relied on a single source of water -- the Figeah spring. The population of Damascus is now about 1.2 million and increased by 5 per cent a year, and the water of the Figeah is no longer enough.

Under a project which is expected to be finished by 1980, work is going ahead to reduce seepage from the spring and to pump up billions of gallons of water from the aquifer beneath the spring, water which has never been exploited.

In this way, it is hoped, the people of Damascus can continue to enjoy their fresh spring water, although some will have to pay more for it. Water rates in Damascus are among the lowest in the developing world.

The water rates have not been increased since 1945, but under a new scheme to be put into force, those who use more than 500 litres a day will pay more and those who use more than 1,000 litres still more.

About 500 litres a day is thought to be sufficient to meet an average family's cooking and washing needs, and it is not expected that the prudent or the poor will have to pay more in water rates under this new scheme.

Most Damascenes are served through individual water connections, but recent investigations have shown that almost half the city's water metres are either inoperative or else under-registering the amount of water used.

The local water authority is now setting about improving this situation, and the increased revenue from more accurate meterage and from the increased water rates will be used for future capital expenditure. The cost of the Figeah project, however, is being borne by the Syrian government, with the help of the World Bank and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. The cost of the project is put at about \$137 million, much of which is due to the fact that construction costs in rapidly-developing Syria are high.

The Figeah spring comes to the surface at the foot of a range of limestone mountains, some 15 kms. from the centre of the city. There is evidence -- in the form of an aqueduct -- that it supplied the city in Roman times, when it was a thriving settlement. It was the presence of fresh, reliable water nearby which has enabled Damascus to thrive and grow over the centuries.

With the growth of the city, as the nation's capital and main commercial and industrial centre, the water supply of the Figeah has become inadequate, at least in the dry season. During the spring, much of the Figeah's water runs into the Barada River, which flows through Damascus, while throughout the year at least part of the Figeah seeps through a gravel bed into the river.

Unfortunately, the river is not a good aqueduct, and when the snows melt in the spring and the waters are swollen, the river floods, and the water supply spreads out into the desert as floodwater and is largely wasted.

Under the project, a wall of cement grout will be built through the aquifer, stopping sub-surface water from flowing into the river. Pumps will be put up at the site of the aquifer and the water will be lifted straight into a large tunnel which will be bored to carry the water to the city's main storage reservoirs.

The bonus for the hydrologists who have thought up this scheme is that the pump will be able to lift up billions of gallons of water in the aquifer which will be able to act as a reserve to be used during times of drought and low rainfall. This, together with the solving of the seepage problem, is expected to ensure the water supply for the foreseeable future and postpone the date when it will be necessary to look for a new source of water for what is thought to be the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

	Jordanian fils Buying/Selling
U.S. dollar	310.00/315.00
U.K. sterling	610.00/614.00
W. German mark	148.80/149.70
Swiss franc	158.50/159.40
French franc	66.60/67.00
Italian lire (for every 100)	36.10/36.30
Japanese yen (for every 100)	130.10/130.90
Dutch guilder	139.20/140.00
Belgian franc (for every ten)	96.00/96.60
Swedish crown	67.50/67.90

Leftists want 3 freed in return for captive Baron Empain's life

PARIS, Jan. 24 (Agencies). — A Maoist splinter group called the Armed Nucleus for Popular Autonomy (NAPAP) today claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of millionaire Belgian industrialist Baron Edouard-Jean Empain. An anonymous caller telephoned the Paris office of Radio Luxembourg (RTL) and said the 40-year-old baron would be killed if leftist guerrillas now in French prisons were not released by midday tomorrow.

Later, a phone call to a newspaper in eastern France was more specific. The caller, who spoke French without accent, said Baron Empain would be killed by midday tomorrow unless three leftist guerrillas were released from French and West German prisons.

One of these, Christian Harbulot, is imprisoned in France after arrest last Dec. 4, charged

with killing Jean-Antoine Tramoni, a former guard at the Renault automobile plant in suburban Boulogne-Billancourt. Tramoni had acknowledged killing a young leftist demonstrator at the plant.

The other two prisoners are Irmgard Moeller and Rolf Pohle, both convicted members of the Baader-Meinhof group and currently in prison in West Germany. Frau Moeller was the

only member of the group to survive what Bonn authorities said was a collective suicide bid in Stuttgart's Stammheim prison last October.

It was not known how seriously police in France were taking the telephone threats. Police sources recalled that several previous attacks claimed by NAPAP had in fact turned out to be the work of other extremist groups.

The first caller told RTL: "We demand the release of our comrades in prison before midday on Wednesday. Otherwise we will kill the baron. Other bosses will follow."

Baron Empain was abducted outside his home in Paris' exclusive Avenue Foch yesterday morning.

Baron Empain, a married man with three children, is Chairman of the Schneider group of companies, which employs 245,000 people and had a turnover last year of more than 22.1 billion francs (about \$5 billion).

A leading figure in Parisian high society, he has business interests which include steel, heavy engineering, the nuclear power industry and banking. As a top member of the French Employers' Organisation, he has been a frequent target of criticism by leftwing groups in France.

He said he would answer questions dealing only with the reasons for the trial, why a case was "fabricated" against him, and his lack of confidence in obtaining a fair judgement.

Later, apart from a few asides, the ex-premier, himself



Ethiopian Assistant Foreign Minister Maj. Dervi Wolde George (left) speaks to reporters during a press conference in Rome on Monday in which he accused Western and some Arab governments of "manipulating" Somali and other guerrilla groups inside Ethiopia to "dismember the country" in retaliation for its socialist policy. (AP wirephoto)

Bhutto refuses to testify in defence against murder charge

LAHORE, Pakistan, Jan. 24 (R). — Former Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto refused to testify in his defence today when questioned about events leading up to the ambush of a political rival three years ago.

Mr. Bhutto, who has pleaded not guilty to murder in connection with the ambush, was called to the witness stand under procedure which obliges an accused to answer but without taking an oath.

He said he would answer questions dealing only with the reasons for the trial, why a case was "fabricated" against him, and his lack of confidence in obtaining a fair judgement.

Later, apart from a few asides, the ex-premier, himself

announced that he was boycotting the trial and has sacked his counsel. He has made several unsuccessful attempts to have the court declared unconstitutional and biased.

The ambush was alleged to have been carried out against Mr. Ahmed Raza Kasuri by officers of the since-disbanded Federal Security Force.

Four other people are also charged as a result of the incident, in which Mr. Kasuri's father, Nawab Mohammad Ahmed, was killed.

Mr. Bhutto, 50, had already

announced that he was boycotting the trial and has sacked his counsel. He has made several unsuccessful attempts to have the court declared unconstitutional and biased.

The long series of questions put to him today by the full five-man bench of the High Court included inquiries about his relations with Mr. Kasuri. His former ally had been especially critical of Mr. Bhutto over the secession of Pakistan's eastern wing, now Bangladesh.

Poll shows 71% of Israelis against total withdrawal

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 24 (R). — More than 70 per cent of Israelis covered by a public opinion poll published on Monday opposed complete withdrawal to the pre-1967 borders even for the sake of a comprehensive peace as laid down by President Anwar Sadat.

The poll was taken for the government by the Hebrew University shortly before the breakup last Wednesday of the political talks between Israel and Egypt.

The poll indicated that 71 per cent of Israel's adult Jewish population opposed a full withdrawal, 20 per cent thought such a complete pullback should be considered and nine per cent expressed readiness for a return of all occupied territories.

The poll also indicated that 72 per cent of the Israelis opposed a transfer of Jewish settlements in the Rafah area of the Gaza Strip to Egyptian sovereignty.

But 60 per cent were against the expansion of Jewish settlement in occupied Arab territories. The others questioned thought such activities should continue in Gaza and other parts of occupied areas even while negotiations with Egypt were in progress.

Asked what concessions Israel should make in return for peace, five per cent of those surveyed favoured a complete withdrawal from the occupied West Bank, 28 per cent favoured "substantial withdrawals" from that area, 4 per cent would accept minor withdrawals and the remainder opposed any withdrawal whatever.

Sixty-eight per cent thought Prime Minister Menachem Begin was doing a good job and "acting properly" in talks with the Egyptians at the time the survey was made.

Twenty-one per cent said he was doing fairly well, nine per cent "not so well," and two per cent rejected his handling of the negotiations.

Turkey reportedly will withdraw more troops from Cyprus

NICOSIA, Jan. 24 (R). — As a goodwill gesture, Turkey will this week further cut its 26,000-man troop level in Cyprus, the independent Northern Cyprus News Agency (NCNA) reported today.

The agency, quoting military sources, said the reduction would be made before the new Turkish government of Mr. Bulent Ecevit put forward proposals for an overall settlement of the Cypriot dispute. Turkey has controlled about one-third of the Mediterranean island, mainly its northern sector, since a previous government headed by Mr. Ecevit sent Turkish forces to invade the island after the 1974 coup against the then President the Archbishop Makarios.

At that time, Greece withdrew from NATO's military wing, but after recent talks with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Greek Prime Minister Constantine Karanias said his country would consider returning to the alliance if NATO contributed to a settlement of the Cypriot dispute.

Turkey withdrew 700 troops from the island before Christmas last year, leaving an estimated 26,000 men in the northwest sector. It is not known how many might return home in any further withdrawal.

Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş said on his return from Ankara proposals to be presented for settlement talks would reflect the wishes of the island's Turkish-Cypriot community.

The proposals would be ready in three to four weeks and be considered by the Turkish-Cypriot legislature — formed to govern the self-proclaimed Turkish federated state in the occupied northern sector.

Meanwhile, Greek Premier Karanias told Turkish Premier Ecevit yesterday that he

is prepared to meet him this spring to help iron out problems in Greek-Turkish relations.

Mr. Karanias was replying to a message from Mr. Ecevit that he was ready for a meeting at the first opportunity.

Greece and Turkey have disputes over the Aegean Sea in addition to the Cypriot problem.

Gunman holds 3 hostages in Canada

OAK LAKE, Manitoba, Jan. 24 (R). — A gunman held three hostages in a doctor's house here after a motel gunman in which a policeman was shot dead and two other wounded.

The man told reporters by telephone last night he wanted \$100,000 and a plane to take himself, his wife — who was also wounded in the motel shooting — and at least one of the hostages to a neutral country.

The hostages were believed to include the doctor and his wife.

The gunman, who identified himself only as Cliff, aged 43, said he had jumped bail in British Columbia after being charged with cashing bogus cheques. He told reporters he shot at the three police officers who went to his motel room yesterday morning, apparently to check on a reported stolen car.

Police declined all comment on the case except to report the casualties. Eyewitnesses said a dozen police cars had blocked the only road out of town.

World News Briefs

Cambodia claims victories over Viets

BANGKOK, Jan. 24 (Agencies). — Cambodia accused Vietnam today of continued attacks into its territory and claimed more victories over Vietnamese forces. A radio Phnom Penh broadcast said the Vietnamese attacks took place Jan. 19, 20 and 21 north of the so-called Parrot's Beak and that the Vietnamese penetrated up to 2 km. into Cambodia. "The enemy's infantrymen and tanks fled in disorder as a result of our attacks," the broadcast said, describing the Jan. 19 fighting. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese official media has said some of Hanoi's top leaders have visited frontier areas in the central highlands in recent days, to the west of Ho Chi Minh City and in the Mekong River Delta.

3 questioned on U.K. newsmen's murder

CAIRO, Jan. 24 (R). — Two men and a girl who were held for questioning about the murder of British correspondent David Holden last month have been set free but warned not to leave Egypt, police sources said last night. Mr. Holden, chief foreign correspondent of the London Sunday Times, was found shot dead in the desert near Cairo Airport on Dec. 7 after flying in from Amman. The police sources said the three people detained, all holders of Jordanian passports, were released three weeks ago but were asked to stay on in Egypt pending further investigations into the murder. They were held for interrogation after Mr. Holden's suitcase and other personal property were found inside their car. But the police said they discovered later that the trio had reported the theft of the car the day before Mr. Holden's body was found. The Sunday Times reported earlier this month that Egyptian investigators believe that the 53-year-old correspondent had been killed by an unknown intelligence organization.

Soviet cosmonaut resupply spacecraft

MOSCOW, Jan. 24 (Agencies). — Cosmonauts aboard the orbiting Salyut-Six space station have started bringing aboard supplies which were ferried to them by an unnamed transport craft, Tass reported today. The Soviet news agency said Cosmonauts Yuri Romanenko and Georgi Grechko also began preparatory operations for refueling the space station from the Progress-1 transport capsule. "According to telemetric information, the on-board systems of the space complex are functioning normally," Tass said, adding that "the cosmonauts feel well."

U.S. to pass anti-terrorism law

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24 (R). — The Carter administration yesterday expressed support for a plan to publish a list of countries aiding international terrorism but warned against mandatory sanctions. The government was working on a bill that would cut off air services between the United States and countries abetting terrorism. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance told a Senate committee, adding that sanctions should be considered only on an individual basis. Other foreign policy considerations should be weighed before closing down air traffic, he said. The United States has listed Libya, Iraq, South Yemen and Somalia as countries that had "aided terrorism".

Carter reportedly will sack CIA head

DETROIT, Michigan, Jan. 24 (Agencies). — The White House staff is trying to ease Admiral Stanfield Turner out of his job as head of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Detroit News reported yesterday. The News, quoting unidentified sources, said that President Carter's National Security Adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, is leading the effort to remove Admiral Turner and that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance is tacitly supporting the effort. Asked about the report, White House Press Secretary Jody Powell vehemently denied that Admiral Turner was being ousted. "There's no truth in that," he said.

Salisbury talks falter as black negotiators take opposed views

SALISBURY, Jan. 24 (Agencies). — Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith conferred with his cabinet today after majority rule settlement talks with black politicians faltered over protective safeguards for whites in a proposed new black-dominated parliament.

The cabinet meeting is held routinely each Tuesday. Government sources said Mr. Smith would probably brief his ministers on how the seven-week-old settlement talks had bogged down.

The key point in the talks scheduled to resume later today, is how long whites should be allowed to hold reserved

seats in the proposed legislature under an envisaged majority rule constitution.

Agreement has been reached between Prime Minister Smith and two of the black delegations that the whites should keep the seats for ten years or the life of two sessions of parliaments, sources close to the talks said.

But the third black delegation led by the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole is insisting on no more than five years.

The parties have agreed that whites will hold 28 of 100 seats in the proposed new parliament.

Mr. Smith has agreed in principle to one-man, one-vote

AWACS urged for Europe

BRUSSELS, Jan. 24 (Agencies). — Gen. William John Evans, allied air force commander in Central Europe, made a plea today for installation of an air-borne warning and control system to watch for any invading Soviet planes and direct the battle against them. Without it, he said, allied forces would be hard pressed to defend Western Europe. The system, called AWACS, would be now planned bring to Western Europe 17 or 18 Boeing 707's with new electronic gear, to watch for low-flying Soviet planes over Central Europe. They would work with 11 similar but less versatile planes called Nimrods which the British have developed mainly to watch over the sea.

Mr. Gibson Magaramombe, ZUPO Publicity Secretary, asserted black leaders had joined the talks on the understanding no one delegation could have the power of veto. He added: "If the Sithole delegation continues to delay settlement of these grave issues then the other three delegations ... should go ahead with the settlement talks as they are in the majority."

Asked what concessions Israel should make in return for peace, five per cent of those surveyed favoured a complete withdrawal from the occupied West Bank, 28 per cent favoured "substantial withdrawals" from that area, 4 per cent would accept minor withdrawals and the remainder opposed any withdrawal whatever.

Sixty-eight per cent thought Prime Minister Menachem Begin was doing a good job and "acting properly" in talks with the Egyptians at the time the survey was made.

Twenty-one per cent said he was doing fairly well, nine per cent "not so well," and two per cent rejected his handling of the negotiations.

NATO ponders Brezhnev's letter on neutron bomb

BRUSSELS, Jan. 24 (Agencies). — Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev has warned NATO governments that a decision to deploy the so-called neutron bomb could threaten disarmament negotiations as well as detente, Atlantic Alliance sources said.

Mr. Brezhnev's letter, addressed to government chiefs, was received early in January, but its existence was made public only recently by the German daily, Die Welt.

According to NATO diplomatic sources who have seen versions of the letter, Mr. Brezhnev criticised the United States for pressing its allies to endorse deployment of the neutron bomb.

Mr. Brezhnev recognised that there was some political reluctance among NATO allies, but expressed fear that allied military authorities would ultimately prevail.

Mr. Brezhnev, the same sources said, stressed what he called the inhuman aspects of the neutron bomb's destructive power.

After insisting that deployment of the neutron bomb would jeopardise disarmament negotiations and detente, Mr. Brezhnev was reported as threatening that if the Western countries deployed the neutron bomb, the USSR would have no alternative to taking similar action.

Mr. Brezhnev also noted his earlier proposal that an East-West agreement be continued to ban usage of the neutron bomb.

According to NATO diplomatic sources the NATO members are at present consulting and comparing the letters received from Mr. Brezhnev and are expected also on their individual answers.

The neutron warhead produces twice the deadly radiation of a conventional nuclear bomb but less than a tenth as much blast power, heat and fallout. Thus destruction to buildings and other inanimate objects would be far less — it would kill people but spare buildings.

Soviet military buildup?

Meanwhile, NATO Secretary General Joseph Luns said here last night that the Soviet Union is conducting a relentless, long-term build-up of military might which presents an ominous threat to Western countries.

"By any objective judgement, the Soviet Union has internationally developed a military capability far beyond that required for the defence of her homeland," Dr. Luns said.

He said the Soviet Union was spending as much as 12 per cent of its gross national product each year on defence. This compared with about 5 per cent for NATO "as a whole".

Thus, he said, the Soviet buildup did not appear to be geared to "reflect or respond" to NATO's own defence efforts.

Turkey's new government under Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, is committed to three main objectives: to end political violence; restore the nation's economy; and to settle the Cypriot problem. On Cyprus it is thought there is now a difference in the Turkish approach to the issue. Mr. Ecevit may now be prepared to make territorial concessions to the Greeks.

By William Forrest

LONDON — Who would want to be prime minister of a country on the brink of bankruptcy, with rampant inflation and record unemployment, and return with political strife?

The country is Turkey, and the man who has just taken over the daunting job of P.M. is Bulent Ecevit, poet and politician.

Just how daunting is the job can be easily shown with the aid of a few figures.

Turkey's current account deficit last year was a record \$3700 million. The Central Bank owes \$1900 million to foreign private banks in short-term loans, which it is unable to re-pay.

Inflation is running at around 35 per cent and despite the "export" of a million workers to Western Europe, unemployment has topped 20 per cent.

In December alone more than 50 political murders were committed by right and left extremists.

Mr. Ecevit is a man of the left but no extremist: he is

1. To end political violence

According to Amnesty International, most of the political murders are the work of student commandos known as the

Grey Wolves, whose hopes are pinned on ex-Col. Alparslan Turkes, leader of the neo-Fascist National Action Party.